[Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai.]

In view of the fact that the Land Revenue Commissioner himself has admitted that the rate of assessment in Nanjinad is very high, and in view of the present serious economic depression, I press the resolution.

The resolution was put to vote and lost.

Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai: I demand a poll.

A poll was taken, and the House divided as follows :—

AYES—15.

1	Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai		9	Mr. N. K. Padmanabha Pillai	
2	,,	J. John Kattakayam	10	,,	P. Padmanabhan Tampi
3	,,	K. N. Kesavan Namputiripad	11	,,	M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai
4	,,	M. P. Madhavan Pillai	12	,,	S. Piraviperumal Pillai
5	,,	G. Narayana Aiyar	13	,,	K. Rama Varma Raja
6	,,	M. N. Narayana Menon	14	,,	Kattiyattu Sivarama Panickar
7	,,	K. P. Nilakanta Pillai			
8	,,	K. Padmanabha Panickar	15	,,	A. N. Visvanatha Pillai

NOES—16.

1	Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi		9	Mr. R. Nilakanta Pillai	
2	,,	K. George	10	,,	Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai
3	,,	C. M. Joseph	11	Rao Bahadur N. Ramanuja Aiyangar	
4	,,	A. Kumara Pillai			
5	Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai		12	Mr. Komilezhathu Sankaran	
6	Mr. Tariatu Kunjitommen		13	,,	James Simpson
			14	,,	R. M. Statham
7	,,	L. A. Lampard	15	,,	K. K. Thomas
8	,,	C. O. Madhavan	16	,,	G. B. E. Truscott

NEUTRALS—5.

1	Mr. S. Adam Sait		4	Mr. K. Madhavan Pillai	
2	,,	M. Govindan	5	,,	H. O. L. Marikkar
3	,,	Jacob Hassan Sait			

The resolution was declared lost.

At this stage the President left the Chair and Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi, one of the Panel of Chairmen, presided.

Committee to examine the grievances of land-holders in Nanjinad.

Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai: Sir, I beg to move the following resolution :

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This Council recommends to the Government that a committee consisting of three non-officials and two officials be immediately appointed to examine the grievances of the land-holders in Nanjinad arising out of the conversion of the *kottah* measure in terms of *parah* measure in the matter of the realisation of land revenue and to afford such relief as may be found necessary.

In moving this resolution, it is my painful duty to point out to this House that a fair portion of land tax, nearly 1/5, realised from Nanjinad, is excessive and illegal. By illegal, I mean, not legitimately due from the ryots. This illegal exaction is the result of an error committed by Government in the process of adjusting the *parah* measurement in terms of the Nanjinad *kottah* and the *marakal* for the purpose of commutation.

What is the nature of this error and how it has worked injuriously are matters which require serious consideration.

It has however to be borne in mind at the outset that in Nanjinad the grain measures in vogue from time immemorial are the *kottah* and the *marakkal*; while those in vogue in other parts of the state excepting Shencotta are the *parah* and the *edangali*.

Taxes as we all know were first paid in kind throughout the State. While in other parts of the State *parah* and *edangali* were used in measuring out paddy, so far as Nanjinad was concerned, the measures that were used were the *kottah* and the *marakkal*.

Later on a portion of the tax was commuted into money and, so far as Nanjinad was concerned, by a *Proclamation of the year 1044 M. E.*, the commutation rate of 6 chs. per *parah* obtaining in the 25 taluks from Trivandrum northward was introduced for half the tax. The *parah* as I have said was even then unknown to Nanjinad and the *parah* that was in existence during the year 1044 M. E. was the *mara parah* of 600 cubic inches and the *venkala parah* of 640 cubic inches. Since the rate fixed was with reference to the *parah* which was not in existence in Nanjinad it became necessary to devise an equivalent table by which the *kottah* might be expressed in terms of *parahs* and it was laid down that one *kottah* was equivalent to 9 *parahs* and 3 5/8 *edangalis* of the *vengala parah* of 640 cubic inches.

Now this system of paying tax, half of it at the commutation rate as above mentioned and half in kind as of old continued till *1081*. In the year 1081 by the proceedings of Government, dated 20th Makaram 1081 M. E., the system of payment in kind was completely abolished and it was ordered that the whole tax should be paid in cash.

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[Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai.]

The commutation rate fixed as per the above proceedings is 11 chs. per *parah*-and not 6 chs. per *parah*. In other words, for the 1st half, taxes are to be paid at 6 chs. per *parah* as of old, and for the second half, at the rate of 11 chs. per *parah*. Why is it? The reason is that by this time the *parah* had undergone a transformation. By the Settlement Proclamation of 1061 the old *mara parah* of 600 cub. in. and the *venkala parah* of 640 cub. in. were abolished, and in their place a uniform standard of 800 cub. in. *parah* measure was adopted.

Now, when, in the year 1081, taxation in kind was abolished and the second half of the tax also was ordered to be paid at the rate of 11 chs. per *parah* it was according to the new settlement *parahs* of 800 cub. in. that the amount of tax was ordered to be fixed.

So far as Nanjinad was concerned the old *marakkal* and the old *kottah* still remained the recognised measures. They were left untouched by the Settlement Proclamation. Since the rate fixed was with reference to *parahs* of 800 cub. inches it became necessary again to devise an equivalent table by which the *kottah* might be expressed in terms of *parahs* of 800 cubic inches.

Now, what was the procedure adopted? An order was passed on the 19th of March 1906, as could be seen from the Land Revenue Manual Vol. II at page 361, by which the Dewan Peishkar of Padmanabhapuram was deputed to ascertain the exact contents of the varying *marakkals* in use in the Proverthi Cutcherries in Nanjinad. He was asked to determine and find the exact cubic contents of the various *marakkals* and to reduce the same to *parahs* of 800 cubic inches and to calculate the money value thereof on the *parahs* and *edangalies* thus arrived at. As directed by this order, the Dewan Peishkar examined the capacity of the *marakkals* used in the different Proverthi Cutcherries and submitted a report. On the basis of his report the Government directed that 8 *parahs* and 6½ *edangalies* of the standard of 800 cubic inches for a *parah* be adopted as the equivalent of a *kottah*. It is this order which is the most unfortunate of the orders ever passed by our benign Government.

Mr. A. Kumara Pillai: Was it not done after actual measurement?

Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai: I am coming to that. The Peishkar was directed to ascertain the cubic contents of the *marakkals* by actually measuring the varying *marakkals* in use. But my submission is that it is not a safe method and it is not a correct method either. It was on account of such a method it is varying to the

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method pursued by the Dewan Peishkar that the whole trouble came about. My point is that that method was unscientific. The order referred to is the order dated 13th September 1906 by which it was determined that 8 *parahs* and 6 1/2 *edangalis* of the standard of 800 cubic inches per *parah* be adopted as the equivalent of a *kottah*. That this order is wrong in principle and contrary to the intentions of Government will be seen from the following facts. In the first place, it is contrary to the Settlement Proclamation. One of the most important changes introduced in the settlement of 1061 was the introduction of acre and cent as the unit of land measurement. A *parah* of wet land was declared to be equivalent to 14 cents and a *kottah* of land in Nanjinad was declared to be equivalent to one acre. The standard adopted during the settlement is as follows. 14 cents was declared as being equivalent to one *parah*, 7 *parahs* being declared equivalent to one acre and one acre being declared equivalent to one Nanjinad *kottah*. So we get that one acre is equivalent to one Nanjinad *kottah* and also equivalent to 7 *parahs*. At page 305 of Vol. III of the Land Revenue Manual we find 14 cents being declared equivalent to one *parah* which again is declared equivalent to 3 *marakkals*. Now, consistent with the Settlement Proclamation and the principle in fixing the standard of the *marakkal* and the *kottah*, the standard already laid down by the Settlement Proclamation which I have referred to, namely one *kottah* being equivalent to 7 *parahs*, ought to have been followed to the very letter. Instead of following the Settlement Proclamation and fixing the standard accordingly, the Dewan Peishkar was directed to examine the contents of the varying *marakkals* in use at that time. In the first place, it has to be noted that there were at that time 18 granaries in Nanjinad, each having four servants, each servant using four different *marakkals* for measuring out paddy. On the whole there were one hundred and forty-four *marakkals* of varying and diverse capacities. It would not have been possible to measure out and ascertain the cubical contents of all these *marakkals* and, as a matter of fact, it does not appear whether it was done in the presence of those persons who were really affected by it. Government themselves have admitted, as will be seen from Vol. II of the Land Revenue Manual, that there are considerable variations in the *marakkals* in actual use. Under the circumstances, the *parah* equivalent noted in the settlement register would have been the safest guide to be followed. But instead of following the Settlement Proclamation, the Peishkar has followed the procedure as per the Government order and this procedure is the most unscientific. The Government not only disregard the Settlement Proclamation, but they disregard also

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[Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai.]

another standard which would have given the nearest approximate to truth. I mean the old *vengala parah*. According to the old *vengala parah* which measured 640 cubic inches, the equivalent admitted by Government was 9 *parahs* and 3 5/8 *edangalis*. When the *vengala parah* of 640 cubic inches is reduced to the standard of the settlement *parah* of 800 cubic inches and the *parah* equivalent is calculated, we find that one *kottah* is equivalent to 7 *parahs* and 4 3/4 *edangalis*. As the Government themselves admit, there are variations in the existing *marakkals*. In view of the existence of these diverse *marakkals*, the old *vengala parahs*, which were in use and which in olden times served to express *kottahs* in terms of *parah*, would have been a safe guide. That too was not followed. The *vengala para*, the Government order says, has been found in actual examination to be no better guide than the varying measures now in use. If the *vengala parah* is not a safe guide, how is it that the 144 varying *marakkals* can be taken to be a better guide? Now, Government not only disregarded the Settlement Proclamation, they not only disregarded these old *vengala parahs* under which the taxes were being calculated and assessed for a very long time, but they also disregarded a time-honoured method, namely the process of counting. By the process of counting also we get the nearest approximate to truth. By this process we find that a *kottah* is equivalent to 7 *parahs* and the Peishkar himself seems to have attempted this method and we find that he arrived at 7 *parahs* and 3 3/4 *edangalis* as the equivalent of a *kottah*.

Mr. K. George: Will not the counting vary with the different kinds of grains?

Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai: The variation will not be much. I do concede that there will be some variation but it will not be much. My point is that the order of Government fixing a Nanjinad *kottah* as being equivalent to 8 *parahs* and 6½ *edangalis* does not represent the actual measurement which is something above seven *parahs* and below eight *parahs*. The process of counting will give us an approximate to the truth. By counting, as I have already stated, the *kottah* has been found to be equivalent to 7 *parahs* and 3 3/4 *edangalis*. Thus we see that any one of these three methods, namely the one according to the Settlement Proclamation, that of the *vengala parah* and that of counting, would have given us an almost near approach to the real measurement, while that followed by the Peishkar does not at all give the correct measurement. The Government order fixing one *kottah* as being equivalent to 8 *parahs* and 6½ *edangalis* is not correct and that

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that it does not give the correct measure is seen from another circumstance. A reference to Mr. R. Mahadeva Aiyar's Revenue Handbook shows that the tax per acre of first class land in Tovala and Agastisvaram, excluding the one tenth for unprofitable areas, is 9 *kottahs* 9 *marakkals* and 9 *padies*, the cash equivalent being Rs. 25-15-7. Now, for the same first class rate and for the same land bearing the same assessment in Eraniel, the tax is 67 *parahs* 1 *edangali*, the cash equivalent of which is Rs. 20-10-6. Now, the two rates being equal, one in Eraniel and another in Nanjinad, we find 9 *kottahs* 9 *marakals* 4 *padies* are equal to 67 *paras* 1 *edangali*, because both the lands bear the same rate of assessment. Calculated at this rate, the equivalent of a *kottah* will be found to be 7 *parahs* and 1 *edangali*, which is also the Settlement equivalent. But we find a difference of Rs. 5 in the rate of assessment. Because of the only point that one field lies in Eraniel where *parah* measurement is in vogue, and another at Nanjinad where the *kottah* and *marakkal* are the recognised measures, one has to bear Rs. 5 in excess of the other. That alone is the reason. The rate of assessment for these two lands being the same how has the difference of Rs. 5 crept in. It is because of this wrong calculation, which is also the explanation by Mr. Mahadeva Aiyar himself. On the basis of this wrong calculation Government have been raising an excess amount from the people of Nanjinad. There has been a very long agitation and for over 25 years the members of the Assembly and the Council have been representing this long-felt grievance to the Government. But nothing has been till now done.

I may close my speech with a quotation from the Economic Depression Enquiry Committee.

"This matter was brought to the notice of the Economic Depression Enquiry Committee.

Chairman: Your time is up. The quotation will be taken as read.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai: Sir, I rise to a point of order whether it can be ruled that a quotation could be taken as read though it has actually not been read.

Chairman: A considered ruling will be given later.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: I heartily support this resolution. It has been a long-standing grievance of the ryots of Nanjinad that the Government have been taking from them by way of taxes much more than what they are actually and legally bound to pay. Such a state of affairs has been due to a mistake arising out of the conversion of the *kottah* and *marakkal* measurements into *parah* measurement. Before this the cultivators of

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[Mr. M. N. Parameswaran Pillai.]

Nanjinad did not feel the burden of an excess taxation so much as they do now. At present, on account of the prevailing economic depression and the depreciation in the yield, they feel that an early redress of this particular grievance would give them considerable relief. Mr. Arumukham Pillai has spared no pains to advocate the cause of the ryots of Nanjinad in respect of this question at almost every session of this Council. All the cultivators of Nanjinad who gave evidence before the Economic Depression Enquiry Committee were unanimous in representing this grievance and the committee also did recommend to Government the necessity for a thorough and full investigation and settlement of the problem. At page 106, paragraph 207, the Committee has reported like this :—

> 'The Nanjinad cultivators who gave evidence before us were unanimous in representing a grievance of many years' standing. It is not directly concerned with the present depression. However, they point out that, as long as the income from their fields was ample, they could bear it; but now, the profits of cultivation are so low that the redress of this particular grievance would give them very considerable relief. Their position may be briefly stated. By a mistake in converting the *kottah* and *marakkal*, the measurements for paddy in Nanjinad, into *parahs*, the measurement current in the rest of Travancore, the Nanjinad ryots are being mulcted of more than there dues in taxes. Before 1061 M. E., the wooden *parah* of about 600 cubic inches was in use in Government granaries, and by this *parah*, a *kottah* measured 9 *parahs* and 3 5|8 *edangalis*. When the *venkala parah* which had a capacity of 640 cubic inches was introduced, a *kottah* measured only 8 *parahs* and 8 *edangalis*, instead of 9 *parahs* and 3 5|8 *edangalis*. Later the standard *parah* was declared, by a Government Proclamation in 1061, to be 800 cubic inches, in which case a *kottah* measured only 7 *parahs*. This relationship was admitted by the Government in converting land measure by seed capacity into land measure in acres and cents, where 14 cents were taken to be equivalent to land capable of holding one *parah* or three *marakkals* of seed. This gives 7 *parahs* to the *kottah*, at the rate of 21 *marakkals* a *kottah*. Notwithstanding the successive increases in the capacity of the *parah*, the old relationship between the *parah* and the *kottah*, *i. e.*, 9 *parahs* and 3 5|8 *edangalis* per *kottah*, was maintained for tax purposes and the money value calculated on this basis. Hence more money was obtained from the ryots than was really due from them. This fact was recognised when the whole tax in kind was being commuted for money in 1081, as a result of the ryots' petition. But instead of proceeding rationally by establishing a relationship between the *kottah* and the *parah* by actual measurement records were consulted and the lowest equivalent of a *kottah* in *parahs* to be discovered in them, *viz.*, 8 *parahs* and 6 1|2 *edangalis* per *kottah*, was fixed as the relationship. But according to the standard *parah* of 800 cubic inches, one *kottah* is equivalent to

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seven *parahs* only. In these circumstances, the ryots maintain that they are being compelled to give more than they are legally liable to pay. This, in brief, is the contention of the ryots. We are not, however, in possession of the necessary records to form a conclusion. We would only observe that the question deserves to be further investigated and settled once for all, and recommend that necessary steps should be taken for the purpose as early as possible."

It is, therefore, clear that the people of Nanjinad have a real and permanent grievance and that it is the duty of the Government to institute an enquiry into the whole matter and do whatever is necessary to help them. With these words I have great pleasure in supporting the resolution.

Mr. K. George: Sir, as the mover has explained in the course of his speech, this subject has been a matter of agitation on the part of the people of Nanjinad for well nigh 25 years. And the Government have repeatedly gone into this question and told them that the question of re-adjusting the relationship between Nanjinad *kottah* and the standard *parah* is one which can be taken into consideration only in connection with the next settlement. What Mr. Arumukham Pillai really advocates would amount to a revision of assessment. Such a step is possible only in connection with the next Settlement. Government have already told the people of Nanjinad that they propose to do it when the next Settlement is taken up.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai: May I know from the member whether he knows when the next Settlement will be begun?

Mr. K. George: Whenever that is, this question will be considered.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai: Apart from the Settlement may I know from the member what prevents Government from rectifying a mistake arising in regard to the measurements of *kottah* and *parah*?

Mr. K. George: In the first place, I do not recognise that there has been a mistake. The statement that there has been a mistake is based on a misconception. It is said that in the Settlement Proclamation one *parah* of land was declared to be equivalent to 14 cents. Mr. Arumukham Pillai would have it that because one *kottah* is more or less equivalent to 1 acre and one *parah* is about 14 cents-the superficial extent-the corresponding proportion should subsist between the *kottah* and the *parah* when used as grain measures. That is to say because the *kottah* is about 7 1/7 *parahs* in area, one *kottah* of paddy should be equal to 7 1/7 standard *parahs* of paddy. This is a fallacy. In the first place in the Settlement

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[Mr. K. George.]

Proclamation whatever might have been the intentions really no relationship was made between the land and the grain measures.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: May I know from the member whether, after the recommendation of the Economic Depression Enquiry Committee, any investigation was made into the matter by the Land Revenue Department or by the Government?

Mr. K. George: Full investigation was made and it was after that it was ordered by Government that on the merits of the question also the Nanjinad people have no grievance.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: Was there any such proceedings published to that effect by Government?

Mr. K. George: A representation was received from the people of Nanjinad and a reply was sent to them. What I was saying is that there is no real.....

Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai: May I know the date of the order?

Mr. K. George: I am not quite certain about the date, but it was in 1924.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: May I know, if it is a mistake, why not Government issue a proceedings to clear the misunderstanding?

Mr. K. George: That can be considered. Originally for the conversion of that portion of the paddy tax payable in money, a *kottah* was taken as equivalent to 9 *parahs* and 3 5/8 *edangalis*. That was fixed so because it was the ratio which was then obtaining, for the adjustment of paddy transactions in the Government accounts. It had actually nothing to do with the sowing capacity of a *kottah* of land. Similarly there is no actual relationship between the sowing capacity of an acre of land, and a standard *parah* of 800 cubic inches. The capacity of the standard *parah* itself was by the rule of thumb method. The *edangali* measures that were then in use ranged from 68 3/8 and 86 1/16 cubic inches. An average was struck and the standard *parah* was taken to be 800 cubic inches. Whatever may have been the intention of the Settlement Proclamation, in actual practice no definite relationship was established between the acre and the number of *parah* measures of paddy required for sowing that area.

Another contention of Mr. Arumukham Pillai was in regard to the rate of conversion that was adopted in 1081 when taxation in kind was abolished and the tax that was then payable in kind was converted into money at 11 chs. per *parah*. At that time the people

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of Nanjinad made representations to Government and as a result of the actual verification it was found that the *kottah* varied from 8 *parahs* 6 1/2 *edangalis* to 9 *parahs* and 2 13/16 *edangalis* and the former rate which was the lowest recorded was adopted by Government for the purposes of commutation. This is mentioned in the Government Order which Mr. Arumukham Pillai read. Government took the lowest rate because they thought that, by adopting a higher rate the people of Nanjinad who were measuring out paddy tax to the Government at the lower rate, would be aggrieved. That shows clearly that Government looked into the grievances of the Nanjinad ryots at that time and took a very considerate view of their situation when they took the lowest of the conversion rates then obtaining. ... ...

The Council at this stage adjourned for lunch at 1 P. M. and reassembled at 2 P. M., Mr Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi, one of the Panel of Chairmen, presiding.

Mr. K. George: Sir, I would like briefly to re-capitulate what was said, before we proceeded for lunch. In the olden days land tax throughout the State was payable in kind. In the year 1064 a Royal Proclamation was issued to the effect that, half the tax should be paid in kind and half in money. That is so far as the Trivandrum and Padmanabhapuram Divisions were concerned. A different proportion was adopted for the other two Divisions. For the conversion of the tax payable in kind into money, it was decided that the commutation rate should be 6 chs. per *parah*. The Nanjinad *kottah* was then treated in the Sirkar accounts as equivalent to 9 *parahs* $3\frac{5}{8}$ *edangalis*. So, at that time, half the tax which was payable in paddy was converted into money by taking a *kottah* as equivalent to 9 *parahs* and $3\frac{5}{8}$ *edangalis*. That is the tax still payable in Nanjinad. They do not pay more than that. On the other hand I may say that at the Settlement this tax was reduced a little, because the rate of tax for a *kottah* of land was reduced at the Settlement from 10 *kottahs* to 9 *kottahs* and a few *marakkals*.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: May I know from the member whether Government have any objection in receiving the whole tax in kind again due to the present depression?

Mr. K. George: They have serious objection.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: Was there a time when Government were receiving tax in paddy and cocoanuts?

Mr. K. George: There was a time in good old days or the bad old days when tax was partly received in kind and partly in money.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: If Government would start industries, can they not utilise the cocoanuts realised as tax for industrial purposes?

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Mr. K. George : It is not a practical proposition and I do not think I should waste my time over it.

As I was saying, Sir, the Nanjinad ryots are now paying only what they used to pay in the past. In regard to the other half also the mover spoke as if a wrong was perpetrated on the Nanjinad ryots. A few years after the Royal Proclamation which I referred to, *viz.*, in 1081, Government decided to stop payment of tax in kind altogether and therefore it was resolved that the remaining half should also be paid in money and the commutation rate was then fixed at 11 chs. per standard *parah*. That 11 chs. was for a *parah* of 800 cubic inches. Accordingly in deciding the tax payable in money in Nanjinad, Government wanted to convert the *kottah* into a standard measurement and to do so they asked the Padmanabhapuram Division Peishkar to examine the question carefully and to actually verify the varying rates of measures which was in existence in Nanjinad in those days. He did that thoroughly and after examination of the whole thing, Government fixed the equivalent of 1 *kottah* as 8 *parahs* 6½ *edangalis* which was the lowest measure then obtaining for payment of tax in Nanjinad in those days. It ranged from 8 *parahs* 6½ *edangalis* to 9 *parahs* 2$\frac{13}{16}$ *edangalis* in certain parts of Nanjinad. So Government was very considerate at that time in adopting the lower standard. So, I should say that the Nanjinad ryots have no reason to complain of. It was urged that, at the time of Settlement, the standard *parah* was equivalent to 800 cubic inches. That is true but there is no use of mentioning that because in the Settlement although Government wanted to adopt uniform standards, yet in practice the Settlement department never did so. As a matter of fact the measures that were adopted in Settlement varied in different parts of the State. For example, there are four different tracts in which different measures were adopted. Those were the tracts of Shencotta, Nanjinad, Aryanad and the rest of Travancore. In Shencotta, there is a *kottah* which is altogether different from the *kottah* in Nanjinad. In Shencotta *kottah* used for measurement of area is equal to 1·47 acres and as a grain measurement it is 16 *parahs*, 8 *edangalis*. So what I mean to say is that at the Settlement no attempt was made to adopt a uniform standard of measurement throughout the State.

Another aspect of the matter also which I may now mention is this. For transactions in Nanjinad at present the *kottah* is equal to 75 Madras measures and this is equivalent to 7500 cubic inches, which when converted into standard *parah* is equal to 9 *parahs* 3¾ *edangalis*, whereas the standard adopted by Government for the conversion of one-half of the paddy tax was 9 *parahs* 3⅝ *edangalis* which is a little less. On that score also the Nanjinad ryot is not called

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upon to pay anything more than what he was already paying. For the conversion of the other half of the tax, the standard adopted was 8 *parahs*, 6½ *edangalies* which is the lowest that was then prevailing in Nanjinad. So, I say, Sir, this is a matter in which the Nanjinad ryots are at an *advantage* and they have no grievance in substance. Further, as I said at the outset, a readjustment of the measurement at this time, *i. e.*, in an intersettlement period would mean practically a re-settlement and that as I say is impracticable. Government have in their order on the Settlement Final Report stated that at the next Settlement an attempt should be made to have uniform standards of measurement for the whole State. So, when the next Settlement is taken up, this will be one of the problems that will receive consideration. In the meantime I think it is not necessary to have any committee to go into this question. So, Sir, I beg to oppose this resolution.

Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai: I heard the Land Revenue Commissioner, and I am not at all satisfied with his reply. Sir, the only prayer and the only request is to appoint a committee for the purpose of ascertaining whether there is a mistake committed by Government in the process of adjusting the *kottah* in terms of *parah*. And as the learned Commissioner himself admits, these questions have been agitated for a very long time. Government have not yet given a definite reply till now. So far as I am aware Government have never said that the agitation is groundless and that really there is no mistake. Further, in a matter like this, in a matter wherein the people of Nanjinad have been agitating for a very long time, the proper thing which the Government ought to have done is to convince the people. From the answer given by the learned Commissioner, it does not appear that the people were ever convinced of this. Even granting that any reply has been given, he does not say that the people were actually convinced about it. Sir, the learned Commissioner says it is not the request of the people to have a revision of the assessment. The only request is to correct an error, a glaring error which I have pointed out.

Mr. K. George: Will not that amount to a revision of all *pattas* ?

Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai: A correction of the error will go to reduce the amount of tax paid by all the tax-payers.

Sir, if it is a mistake and if it be found by a properly appointed committee that there is really a mistake, it is a matter which cannot wait till the Settlement. Settlement has nothing to do with the rectification of this error. Secondly in the reply given by the learned Commissioner, he has not given a definite and adequate

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[Mr. K. Kunjukrishna Pillai]

reply with regard to one point which I raised. Sir, I stated that two lands bearing the same rate of assessment but one situated in Eraniel and another situated in Nagercoil have to pay different taxes. The lands situated in Nagercoil bearing the same rate of assessment as in Eraniel and bearing the same first class *tharam* has to pay Rs. 5 more than what the land in Eraniel pays. Why is this, Sir; Why should there be this difference? The learned Commissioner has not attempted to offer an explanation for this.

Mr. M. Govindan : May I know from the member what is the reason for this disparity ?

Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai : That is what I am going to say. The reason is the wrong calculation that one *kottah* is equal to 8 *parahs*, $6\frac{1}{2}$ *edangalies* instead of 7 *parahs*, 1 *edangali*.

Mr. K. George : Was not the calculation the same for both these places ?

Mr V. S. Arumukham Pillai : No. There the measure in vogue is *edangali* and *parah* and not *marakkal*.

I have been stating from the outset that it is because of this difference in measures, *i. e*, *kotta* and *marakkal* peculiar to Nanjinad, that this difficulty has crept in.

Mr. S. Piraviperumal Pillai : May I know whether the *kottah* measure is not prevalent in Agastisvaram and Tovala taluks ?

Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai : It is prevalent in Shencotta taluk also.

Mr. A. Kumara Pillai : Is it not prevalent in Eraniel taluk ?

Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai : There the *parah* is also prevalent. So there is no difficulty there.

In this matter the people of Nanjinad do not cringe for any mercy. They want only justice to be done to them. There is nothing wrong to convince the people by appointing a committee and redressing their grievances.

Mr. M. Govindan : May I know whether the appointment of a competent officer to enquire into that would not be enough?

Mr. V. S. Arumnkham Pillai : It would not be enough. I am not satisfied because one officer cannot be expected to enquire into the matter and do the needful because we find from past experience that even the Peishkar who was deputed to ascertain the cubic contents was not able to do the thing satisfactorily and that is why the whole difficulty has crept in.

Sir, in conclusion, I beg to submit that, in deputing Peishkars to ascertain the various kinds of *marakkals* prevalent and to find

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out their equivalents, Government have committed a great blunder. There is the land measure equivalent under the new Settlement Regulation, and there is the *venkala parah* according to which 9 *parahs* and $3\frac{1}{8}$ *edangalies* which (the learned Commissioner himself admits), is treated as being equal to one *kottah*. These enable scientific methods of making the necessary calculation. In view of these the Government ought not to have resorted to the unscientific method of examining the cubic contents of diverse *marakkals*.

Sir, I press the resolution.

Mr. K. George : Just one word more, Sir. The first point in the reply given by the mover is that Government do not seem to have given a final order on the representation made in the past on this question. Sir, such a final order was issued to the memorialist Mr. V. Chellam Pillai, Ex-M. L. C. The order was issued by Government on the 18th January 1934. I shall read the last paragraph of the order.

> "On a careful consideration of all the points urged in the memorials, Government think that no case has been made out for a revision of the order of 1906 during the intersettlement period. The introduction of a uniform rate of grain measurement for the whole State has been recommended as one of the items to be considered at the next settlement and the point has been noted for consideration by Government at the time of the next general Settlement."

Therefore, Sir, a definite reply has been given to the memorialist. There had been other memorials also, and Government have given replies to them also.

Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai : May I ask the member whether there was an interpellation on the subject in this House ?

Mr. K. George : I am not quite sure.

Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai : May I inform the member that there was an interpellation and that the Government answered that the matter was under their consideration ?

Mr K. George : Probably, it was after such consideration that this letter, which I read, was sent,

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : What is the sort of investigation that the Government conducted before they issued that order ?

Mr. K. George : All the points now urged by the mover were urged in that memorial ; and the local officers were asked to examine them. Their reports were received and were carefully examined by Government

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : May I ask whether the non official side was heard before Government decided the matter ?

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Mr. K. George ; The non-official side was presented fully and exhaustively in the memorial.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : May I ask whether opportunity was given to the people of Nanjinad to consider the points raised by the local Revenue Officers in their reports to Government ?

Mr. K. George: No such opportunity was considered necessary ; all that the people had to say they had stated fully in their printed memorial. There was no need to go further than that.

Another matter that the mover stressed was that all that he now asks for is a committee to go into the question. I suppose, Sir, that the committee is to make a report. Of course, the Government will be expected to give effect to the recommendations contained in such a report, which means that they must be prepared for a complete re-assessment so far as the whole of the Nanjinad tract is concerned. That, I submit, is not feasible at the present moment.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai : May I ask whether the Banking Enquiry Committee or the Economic Depression Enquiry Committee did not recommend this grievance of the Nanjinad people to be redressed ?

Mr. K. George : They merely said that this grievance must be looked into.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai : Does the member realise that, on this matter, there is vital difference of opinion between the people of Nanjinad and the Government ?

Mr. K. George : The opinion of Government on the matter has been communicated to the people of Nanjinad in reply to their representations.

There is also another difficulty in the matter, Sir. The arguments, now urged by the mover in favour of re-assessment in Nanjinad, will apply with equal force to the people of Shencotta.

Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai : May I ask whether the people of Shencotta have raised this question till now at any moment ?

Mr. K. George : They are sure to raise it when they find that Government are taking steps to re-assess the lands in Nanjinad on the basis of the *kotta* being equal to seven and odd *parahs*.

Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai : Is the member aware that even for the first class *tharam* land in Shencotta the tax is only Rs. 20 and odd ?

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Mr. K. George : That raises an altogether different question, namely, the excessiveness or otherwise of the *tharam* of tax. That has nothing to do with the measurement.

Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai : May I ask whether the fact that the rate of assessment in Shencotta is not excessive does not lead to the inference that there is no error in calculating the rate of tax there ?

Mr. K. George : No. The rate of assessment, whether it is excessive or not, is due to the classification of land, irrespective of the locality. At any rate, in Shencotta also, they have the *kotta* which is equivalent to 16 *parahs* and 8 *edangalies*. Suppose we convert it in accordance with the land measurement—one *kottah* is equal to 1.47 acres—and correlate land measurement and grain measurement. A *kottah* instead of being equal to 16 *parahs* and odd as at present will go down and become equivalent to 10 *parahs* and odd. Therefore, my submission is that the moment a committee is appointed and Government think of taking action on its report, the people of Shencotta will start the same agitation.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : If there is real mistake in Shencotta also, may I ask where is the harm in rectifying the mistake there also ?

Mr. K. George : If we go on like that we will have to rectify mistakes throughout the State; and it is for that we have resettlement periodically.

Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai : I press the resolution.

The resolution was put to vote and lost.

Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai : I demand a poll.

A poll was taken and the House divided as follows :-

AYES—13.

1	Mr.	V. S. Arumukham Pillai	8	Mr.	K. P. Nilakanta Pillai
2	,,	M. Govindan	9	,,	K. Padmanabha Panickar
3	,,	J. John Kattakayam	10	,,	N. K. Padmanabha Pillai
4	,,	K. Madhavan Pillai	11	,,	M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai
5	,,	M. P. Madhavan Pillai	12	,,	S. Piraviperumal Pillai
6	,,	G. Narayana Aiyar	13	,,	K. Rama Varma Raja
7	,,	M. N. Narayana Menon			

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